A

Short and Plain

CATECHISM

Instructing a Learner

OF

CHRISTIAN RELIGION,

what he is to believe, and

what he is to Practise.

The Fourth Edition.

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A Short

CATECHISM.

Queſt.

WHAT *is man?*

Anſw. A reaſonable creature.

Q. *What mean you when you ſay you are reaſonable?*

A. I mean I am above a beaſt, and have ſomething within me whereby I know what I do, and why.

Q. *That I may ſee how your knowledge leads to practice: tell me, what learn you from your being reaſonable?*

A. That I never do any thing of which I cannot give a good account to my ſelf and others.

Q. *You ſaid you was a creature, what mean you by that?*

A. I mean, I once was not, but was made, and am preserved by another.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. That I must constantly live in dependance on him that made me.

Q. *Who made you?*

Gen. 1. 26, 27. *A.* God.

Q. *What is God?*

a John 4. 24. *b* Psal. 103. 8. *c* 1 Pet. 1. 5, 16. *d* Rom. 16. 27. Rom. 11. 33. *e* Iob 40. 9, &c. *A.* God is a Being wholly *a* spiritual, and therein above my self, most *b* gracious, *c* holy, *d* wise, *e* powerful, infinite in all perfections, and therein above all spirits.

Q. *You say God is a Being wholly spiritual, what mean you by it?*

Ier. 32. 18, 19. Iob. 11. 7. *A.* I mean he is a Being that hath no flesh and bones as I have, and cannot be perceived by any of my senses, nor can I make any thing like him.

Q. *You have acknowledged a God, and told me he is a Spirit, what learn you hence?*

Ioh. 4. 23, 24. *A.* That I am bound to worship him, and to worship him in spirit.

Q. *You said he was gracious, what mean you by his grace?*

Exod. 34. 6, 7. Psal. 119. 68. *A.* I mean his readiness to do all good.

Q. *What*

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To expect from his bounty whatsoever he seeth needful for me. Psal. 13. 5, 6. Psal. 39. 7.

Q. *You said God was holy, what mean you by it?*

A. That he neither can or will do any evil, and can neither love nor approve it in any other. Psal. 11. 7. Exod. 20. 5. Hab. 1. 13.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. Never to imagine his grace will countenance me in sin. Exod. 34. 6, 7.

Q. *You said God was wise, what mean you by it?*

A. That he hath *f* knowledge of all things, and *g* ability to do all things according to it. *f* Jer. 32. 19. Prov. 15. 3. *g* Prov. 8. 14, 15, 16.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To do all *h* as in his sight, and begging direction of him to rest *i* satisfied in his disposal. *h* Heb. 4. 13. *i* Psal. 37. 5, 6, 7. Psal. 39. 9.

Q. *You said God was powerful, what mean you by it?*

A. That he is *k* almighty, and can do all things; that *l* agree with his wisdom and holiness. *k* Gen. 5. 11. *l* Job 34. 12. Tit. 1. 2.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To fear him * above all creatures, being *m* confident, that what he * Mat. 10. 28. *m* 2 King. 7. 1, 2.

Eph. 3. 20. hath promised or threatned, shall be fulfilled, though it seem impossible to flesh and blood.

Q. *You added God was infinite in all perfections, what doth that teach you?*

Job 26. 14. Rom. 11. 33. *A.* Never to admit any low or unworthy thoughts of God; and when I have the highest, then to remember I know him best, when I admire him most.

Q. *You have told me you was made, and that God was your maker, for what end did he make you?*

a Eccl. 12. 13. b Mat. 5. 8. *A.* That by *a* faithful service to him, I might *b* be happy in the enjoyment of him.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

Psal. 62. 5. 2. 8, 9, 10. *A.* Carefully to perform my duty to God, and never to seek happiness in worldly pleasures, and profits, or any thing below him.

Q. *You were made to serve God, how will he be served?*

2 Tim. 3. 15, 16, 17. *A.* According to his will revealed in the Scriptures, wherein all things are contained, which I am to believe and practise.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. Di-

A. Diligently to read & search them. 1 Tim. 4. 13 Joh. 5. 39.

Q. *What doth the Scripture teach you concerning man, which you have not yet told me?*

A. The Scriptures give the History of the creation of the world out of nothing, and of *Adam* the first man.

Q. *How was* Adam *the first man created?*

A. The Scripture saith, God made him in his own *p* Image, that he was *q* upright, and set as Lord *r* over his Works. p Gen. 1. 26. Gen. 5. 1. q Eccl. 7. 27. r Gen. 1. 26.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. To admire Gods goodness in making the world and man in it, in such an excellent estate, since nothing made by him, could bring any profit to him. Psal. 104. The whole Psalm. Psal. 8. 3, 4, 5, 6.

Q. *Did* Adam *always continue in the state God made him?*

A. No: he disobeyed Gods command in eating forbidden fruit, and so fell from it. Gen. 3.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. Never to charge God with mans sin, but condemn him whose behaviour was unworthy to God, and cruel to himself. Jam. 1. 13, 14.

Q. *What was the ſtate into which he fell?*

Gen. 3. Rom. 5. 12. Jam. 1. 14, 15.

A. A ſtate of ſin and miſery.

Q. *What is the ſtate in which you are?*

A. Mine, and every mans is the ſame, for we all find in our ſelves luſt conceiving and bringing forth ſin, and ſin finiſhed, bringeth forth death.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

Rom. 7. 24.

A. To bewail my ſad and lamentable condition from which I am not able to deliver my ſelf.

Q. *O wretched creature that thou art, Who can or will deliver thee?*

Rom. 7. 25.

A. I thank God through Jeſus Chriſt whom he hath provided to be a Saviour.

Q. *Who is this Jeſus Chriſt the Saviour?*

Joh. 1. 14. 1 Tim. 3. 16.

A. God and man, or God manifeſted in the fleſh.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

Heb. 2. 16, 17, 18. Heb. 4. 14, 15, 16.

A. To be much incouraged, notwithſtanding my ſad condition, ſince my Saviour being both God and man is able and willing to help me.

Q. *What did Chriſt do for you,*

ſ Heb. 4. 15.

A. He lived a holy, ſ yet an afflicted life,

life, and *t* dyed for our sins upon the Cross, *u* rose out of the grave, *x* ascended into heaven, where he now sits to make intercession. *y*

t 1 Pet. 3. 18.
u Mat. 28. 6. Rom. 4. 25.
x Act. 1. 9. Eph. 4. 8.
y Heb. 7. 25.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. *a* Cheerfully to obey him, and willingly to part with every thing for him, who parted with life for me, and is still mindfull of me.

a 2 Cor. 5. 14, 15.

Q. *What good do you hope for from this Saviour?*

A. A *b* supply of all my wants; especially *c* forgiveness of my sins, *d* sanctification, and everlasting *e* salvation.

b Rom. 8. 32. Phil. 4. 19.
c Act. 5. 31.
d Tit. 3. 5, 6.
e Heb. 5. 9.

Q. *What learn you hence?*

A. In no case to entertain any despairing thoughts.

Q. *How must you address your self to God, for the obtaining the mercies you hope for by Christ?*

A. *f* First, with a deep sense of my unworthiness, unfeignedly repenting that ever I sinned against him, *g* (2) With a real sense of his undeserved goodness, humbly by faith in Christ expecting from his free grace. *h* (3) Heartily resolving to walk before him

f Jam. 4. 8, 9, 10. Isa. 1. 15, 16, 17, 18. Act. 8. 22.
g Heb. 10. 20, 21, 22.
h Isa. 55. 6, 7. Act. 9. 6.

him in newneſs of life all my dayes.

Q. *By your anſwer, you may perceive an abſolute neceſſity of repentance, faith, and newneſs of life; firſt, what is repentance?*

A. Such a ſorrow for ſin, that works hatred and forſaking of it.

2 Cor. 7. 10, 11. Heb. 6. 1.

Q. *What is faith in Chriſt?*

A. A hearty perſwaſion that he is the *i* Saviour, that *k* what he hath ſaid, and what is ſaid of him in the Goſpel, is true; ſo as to *l* obey his commands; *m* fear his threatnings, *n* truſt him for the performances of all his promiſes.

i Joh. 6. 69. Chap. 11. 27. k Mark. 1. 15. Acts 15. 7. l Heb. 11. 8. m v. 7. n v. 13. Rom. 4. 18, 19, 20, 21.

Q. *What is newneſs of life?*

A. It conſiſts in denying ungodlineſs, and worldly luſts, and living ſoberly, righteouſly and godlily.

Q. *When may you be ſaid to live ſoberly?*

A. When in all things I live temperately and chaſtly, moderating all unruly paſſion.

Rom. 13. 13. 1 Theſ. 5. 7, 8. Tit. 3. 2.

Q. *When may you be ſaid to live righteouſly?*

A. When in all my dealings I do as I would be done by.

Mat. 7. 12.

Q. *When may you be ſaid to live godlily?*

A. When

A. When in my whole conversation I behave my self towards God, as my *n* Creator and my *p* Redeemer.

n Psal. 100. 1, 2.
p 1 Cor. 6. 20. 1 Pet. 1. 17, 18.

Q. I hope you intend to practise all this, but are you able of your self?

A. No, I am not of my self sufficient, so much as to think one good thought.

2 Cor. 3. 5.

Q. What must enable you?

A. Gods blessed Spirit which he hath promised.

Luke 11. 13. Eph. 3. 16.

Q. You say the spirit must enable you, are you then idle to lye still and do nothing?

A. No, I am therefore to work out my salvation with fear and trembling, because God works in me to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Phil. 2. 12, 13.

Q. If you must not be idle what means must you use?

A. q First, reading, hearing, meditating of the Word (which is the power of God to salvation) *r* (2) Prayer *s* (3) serious consideration of my actions, and of all Gods providences to my self and others *t* (4) Use of the sacraments, Baptism, and the Lords Supper.

q 1 Tim. 4. 13, 15, 16. Rom. 10. 17.
r Luk. 11. 13.
s Psal. 119. 59. Act. 16. 25, &c.
t Mar. 16. 16. 1 Cor. 11. 24, 25.

Q. *I leſs ſuſpect your knowledge in the reſt, what is Baptiſm?*

A. Waſhing with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt. Mat. 28. 19.

Q. *Of what uſe may your Baptiſm be to you, ſince you was Baptiſed in your infancy?*

A. The conſideration of it provokes to newneſs of life, *x* (1) Becauſe outward waſhing ſignifies purity. *x* (2) Becauſe my being baptized in Chriſts Name, engages me to own his Doctrine, and keep his Laws, *Gal.* 3. 27. *x* Act. 22. 16. Rom. 6. 4. *x* 1 Cor. 1. 13, 15. 1 Cor. 10. 2.

Q. *What is the Lords Supper?*

A. It's according to Chriſts inſtitution, bread broken and eaten, wine powred forth and drunk, in remembrance of Chriſt, whoſe body was broken for us, and blood ſhed for the remiſſion of ſin. Mat. 26. 26, 27, 28. 1 Cor. 11. 24, 25.

Q. *How is this uſefull to provoke you to newneſs of life?*

A. While the evil of ſin, and the love of Chriſt crucified is herein ſet before my eyes, I am conſtrained to live to him who dyed for me.

Q. *I pray God whenſoever you receive this*

this Sacrament, you may. But do all receive this benefit?

A. No, they cannot who understand not the ends of Christs death, nor they who desire not to enjoy them. 1 Cor. 11. 21, &c.

Q. *What if you neglect these means and quench the spirit?*

A. I shew that I undervalue all that Christ hath done and suffered, and provoke God to bring on me a greater measure of his wrath, for this my contempt, than if I had never heard of a Saviour. John 3. 18, 19. Heb. 2. 3. Chap. 10. 29. Chap. 12. 25.

Q. *Do you believe God will bring this wrath on you, if you thus behave your self?*

A. Yes, I believe God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, and render to every man according to what he hath done in the flesh, whether it be good or bad. Acts 17. 31. 2 Cor. 5. 10.

Q. *What shall be the condition of all men after the day of Judgement?*

A. To them who by patient continuance in well-doing, seek for glory God will give eternal life, but to them that obey not the truth, and live in unrighteousness, Rom. 2. 7, 8, 9. Mat. 25. 31. &c.

unrighteousness, tribulation, and anguish, indignation and wrath, the portion of every soul that doth evil.

Q. Seeing we profess to believe these things, what manner of persons ought we to be?

2 Pet. 3. 11, 14. 18. *A.* We ought to live in all holy conversation and godliness, being diligent that we may be found of God in peace, without spot, and blameless; growing in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: to whom be glory both now and for ever. *Amen.*

The

THE CREED.

I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, which was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried, he descended into Hell. The third day he arose from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholick Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The LORDS PRAYER.

OUR Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

The X. COMMANDMENTS.

GOD spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which hath brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

1 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

2 Thou

FINIS.